

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059750

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 SCA-01 DHA-02 SNM-02

DEAE-00 /021 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:AAGISE:JFM

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SCA:LELAWRENCE (SUB)

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P 112242Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 059750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX (HARRISON, KAREN ELAINE)

SUBJECT: W/W KAREN ELAINE HARRISON

FOR SMITH AND GAITHER FROM GISE

1. REPEATED BELOW IS LETTER FROM AMERICAN ATTORNEY OF KAREN HARRISON, MR. GARALD J. ORMAN, REQUESTING USG INTERVENTION WITH THE MEXICAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES TO RELEASE HARRISON ON BASIS THAT DEA BELIEVES THERE IS LACK OF CRIMINAL CULPABILITY ON HER PART. SCA IS REQUESTING DEA WASHINGTON (THROUGH AMBASSADOR VANCE'S OFFICE) FOR EVALUATION OF THIS CLAIM. UPON RECEIPT OF THIS SCA WILL COORDINATE WITH INTERESTED PARTIES HERE AND ADVISE POST OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION.

2. ACCORDING TO CONGRESSMAN STARK'S OFFICE KAREN HAS BEEN ADVISED BY HER MEXICAN ATTORNEY THAT THE JUDGE HAS SAID THAT SHE WOULD BE SENTENCED WITHIN 10 DAYS UNLESS THERE IS INTERVENTION BY THE USG.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 059750

3. "...IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF MARCH 8, 1976, THIS IS A LETTER REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF KAREN ELAINE HARRISON AND HER PARENTS. MY NAME IS GARALD J. ORMAN, AND I AM THE ATTORNEY FOR KAREN

-

ELAINE HARRISON AND HER PARENTS.

4. "YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A CASSETTE TAPE WITH CONVERSATIONS FELT PERTINENT TO SHOW THE LACK OF KAREN'S CRIMINAL CULPABILITY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FIRST CONVERSATION, WHICH PERTAINS TO A 'LAWYER' IN MEXICO REFERRED TO IN THE LATER SEDILLO CONVERSATIONS, THESE ARE ALL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY INVESTIGATING OFFICER, MR. ARTHUR SEDILLO, AND THE HARRISONS. INCLUDED IS A CONVERSATION IN WHICH I ALSO PARTICIPATED.

5. "A CAREFUL LISTENING TO THESE TAPES WILL SHOW THAT MR. SEDILLO EARNESTLY BELIEVED THAT KAREN SHOULD BE FREED. IT WILL ALSO SHOW THAT HE ATTEMPTED TO INTERCEDE WITH THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. CONGRESSMAN STARK'S ASSISTANT, MR. JULYAN, CONFIRMED TO US THAT MR. SEDILLO HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN KAREN'S RELEASE.

6. "AS YOU CAN TELL BY THESE TAPES, THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER, MR. SEDILLO, WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING KAREN RELEASED. HIS EFFORTS WERE TO HAVE THE MEXICAN COURT TREAT NORTON AS BEING SOLELY RESPONSIBLE AND TO FREE KAREN. HE REFERRED TO STATEMENTS BY CO-DEFENDANT, JAMES NORTON, AND HER, WHICH CONFIRMED HER LACK OF CULPABILITY.

7. "AT THE PRESENT, LEGAL COUNSEL IN MEXICO ADVISE US THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO KAREN'S CASE IF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WERE TO CONTACT HER JUDGE AND TO SHOW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING HER RELEASE.

8. "ALTHOUGH HER LAWYER IN COURT IS NAMED ALBERTO VALERO
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PAGE 03 STATE 059750

FUENTES, IT IS EASIER TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH AN ENGLISH SPEAKING LAWYER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE AS FOLLOWS: TOMAS SANCHEZ BAYLON, GOODRICH, DALTON, LITTLE & RIQUELME, PASEO DE LA REFORMA 355, MEXICO 5, D.F.
TELEPHONE NO.: (905) 533-0040.

9. "AS I TOLD YOU, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH TERRY GAITHER, LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN

MEXICO CITY, HOWEVER HE IS UNLIKELY TO 'INTERVENE' IN THE ABSENCE OF A SHOWING OF IMPROPER UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTION AT THE TIME OF KAREN'S ARREST AND QUESTIONING.

10. "THOUGH MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THE PRESS AND OTHER STATEMENTS TO THE ABUSE WHICH BOTH JAMES NORTON AND KAREN SUFFERED AT THE TIME OF THEIR ARREST, LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DATE TO KAREN'S LACK OF CULPABILITY, OR SO IT SEEMS.

11. "IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST TO ME, I AM STATING THAT KAREN HARRISON AND HER PARENTS ARE ASKING YOU FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO INSURE KAREN'S RELEASE AND TO ADVISE ME OF THE EFFORTS BEING MADE.

12. "AT THE VERY LEAST, THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION AT THIS TIME CANNOT BE LESS FAVORABLE TO KAREN HARRISON THAN THE TAPES SHOW INVESTIGATOR SEDILLO'S TO HAVE BEEN IN THE EARLY MONTHS FOLLOWING HER ARREST.

13. "THE PRESIDENT HAS THE CAPACITY AND DUTY TO ASSIST KAREN HARRISON UNDER 22 U.S.C. 1732. THE TAPES FURTHER SUBSTANTIATE OUR CONTENTION THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS THE MORAL OBLIGATION TO SO ASSIST. SINCERELY YOURS, /S/ GARALD J. ORMAN." INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE059750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SCS:AAGISE:JFM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760093-0098
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacjhn.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W KAREN ELAINE HARRISON FOR SMITH AND GAITHER FROM GISE
TAGS: CASC, MX, (HARRISON, KAREN ELAINE)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006